



# 2021-2022 Annual Report





## Our Mission

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The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) believes that asylum seekers can make great change by standing together. We work with our members — over 340,000 asylum seekers — to build a more welcoming United States.



## Letter from the Executive Directors

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Dear friends,

We're excited to share that ASAP has had a year full of growth and possibility. Today, over 340,000 asylum seekers are working together for a more welcoming United States as members of ASAP. They are receiving the immigration services they need while building the future they imagine.

This year, ASAP members showed that asylum seekers, standing together, can make the changes they wish to see. Members made their voices heard, took the government to court, and won victories across the immigration system.

For example, thanks to asylum seekers' leadership, over 150,000 members have received work permits and Social Security numbers, and more than 420,000 immigrants are safe from job loss due to government delays. What's more, separated parents spoke directly to the nation's top immigration official, leading him to adopt one of their key ideas for change.

All the while, ASAP has helped members to navigate the immigration system and stay on top of their asylum cases. We are honored to work with the largest organized group of asylum seekers in history, and excited to see the future we can build, together.

Sincerely,



Conchita Cruz



Swapna Reddy

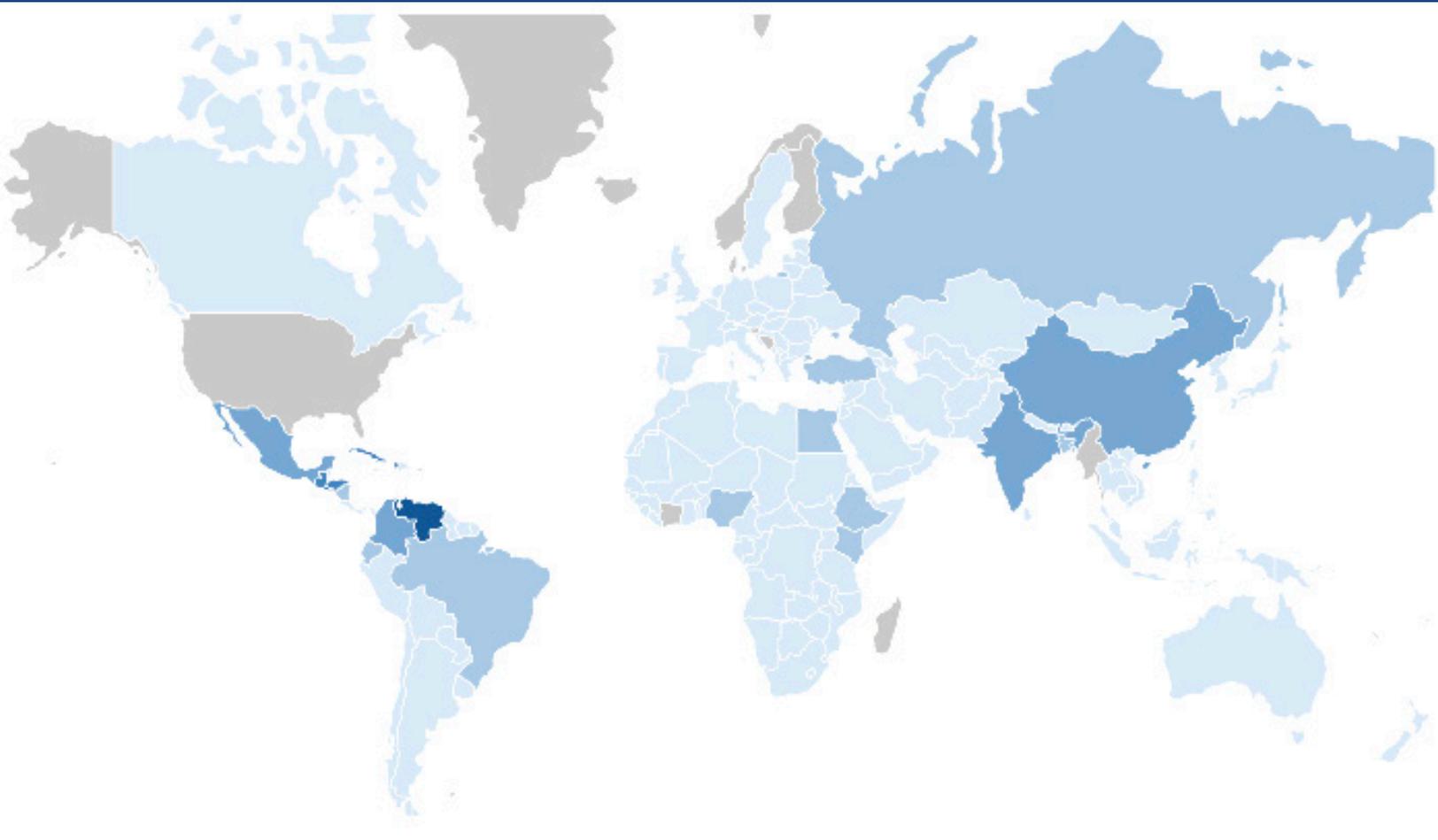
“ I filled out my work permit application at the same time I watched ASAP’s how-to video. I was so afraid to be rejected, but I did everything right. Now with my work permit, I feel like there’s nothing that can stop me. ”

ASAP member from **Honduras**. Over 150,000 asylum seekers have received work permits with ASAP’s assistance, resulting in more than \$1.4 billion in extra income for their households.

ASAP's members are

**340,000** asylum seekers

from **175** countries.



“ It has been an immense privilege to work alongside such a resilient and courageous community of asylum seekers — a community I am a part of. ”

**Emeizmi Mandagi**, ASAP staff member. Emeizmi was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, and immigrated to the United States with her asylum-seeking family as a child.

## Helen's Story

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Last fall, Dr. Helen Muradyan, an asylum seeker from Armenia, was forced to stop treating patients at a rural California hospital. Her work permit was set to expire, and the government had yet to renew it.

Helen was one of thousands of asylum seekers caught up in backlogs. In search of help, she joined ASAP.



"They helped me to navigate through this really confusing and complicated asylum system," she said.

With ASAP's support, Helen spoke out in *The Washington Post* and put the issue of work permit renewal delays on the map. Then, alongside thousands of ASAP members, she won a major victory!

ASAP members convinced the government to extend work permits for 18 months past their written expiration dates due to processing delays. This change will prevent more than 420,000 asylum seekers and other immigrants from losing their jobs.

Now, Helen has returned to seeing patients at her hospital, and she is a proud member of ASAP.

"I hope all asylum seekers will find ASAP," said Helen, "and get the support in the community when they need it."

“ My son and I deserve green cards. We deserve the peace of mind of living in the U.S. safely without the fear of being torn apart again. ”

**Leticia Peren**, ASAP member from Guatemala. ASAP hosted the first-ever meeting between asylum seekers and the nation’s top immigration official, where Leticia spoke out against family separation.

ASAP is thankful to the publications that featured our work this year, including:



“ Without a smooth asylum process, people like me will suffer not only in our home countries but in the United States as well. So I am fighting for change with my full energy and commitment. ”

ASAP member from **Ethiopia**. ASAP's members now form one of the largest collectives in the U.S. immigrants' rights movement.

## Staff and Board

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ASAP is a woman-of-color led organization whose staff and Board of Directors are majority people of color and majority first- or second-generation immigrants.

For a current list of ASAP's staff, please visit:

<https://asylumadvocacy.org/our-staff/>

For a current list of ASAP's Board of Directors, please visit:

<https://asylumadvocacy.org/our-board/>

## Financials

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ASAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose EIN number is 83-3011862. Our 990 for this fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) will be available upon request at [info@asylumadvocacy.org](mailto:info@asylumadvocacy.org). All donations made to ASAP are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

To give to ASAP and support thousands of asylum-seeking families, please visit:

<https://asylumadvocacy.org/donate/>



ASAP